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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 ACDE-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CPR-02 OASY-00  
DODE-00 DS-00 FBIE-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SCT-03 SSC-01 SS-00  
USIE-00 DSCC-00 /029W

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P 192105Z AUG 94  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1586

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 005505

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: OPDC, PTER, AR  
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR CHEEK TO SENATOR  
- D'AMATO - AMIA BOMBING

DEPT. PLEASE PASS TO H AND ARA/BSC

1. FOLLOWING PLEASE FIND RESPONSE FROM AMBASSADOR JAMES R. CHEEK TO THE HONORABLE ALPHONSE M. D'AMATO, UNITED STATES SENATE.
2. BEGIN TEXT: BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, AUGUST 18, 1994.

DEAR SENATOR D'AMATO: THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR LETTER OF JULY 22 REGARDING THE TERRORIST BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE MUTUAL JEWISH ASSOCIATION BUILDING IN  
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BUENOS AIRES ON JULY 18. THE SHOCK AND OUTRAGE WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED TOWARD THIS ATTACK ON A DEFENSELESS GROUP OF PEOPLE ARE FEELINGS WHICH I SHARE. IN ALL OF MY CONVERSATIONS ON THIS TRAGIC EVENT WITH ARGENTINE OFFICIALS THEY TOO HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR OWN DISMAY THAT ARGENTINA SHOULD AGAIN BE THE SCENE OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE AND THEIR HORROR OVER THE TREMENDOUS LOSS OF LIFE THAT OCCURED.

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS ACTIVELY WORKING TO

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IDENTIFY THE PERPETRATORS OF THE BOMBING. AS YOU KNOW, THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE IN CHARGE OF THE CASE HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL IRANIANS WHO MAY HAVE PLAYED SOME ROLE IN PLANNING OR CARRYING OUT THE ATTACK. THE SEVEN IRANIANS HE NAMED ALL ENTERED THIS COUNTRY ON DIPLOMATIC VISAS AND THREE OF THEM ARE STILL IN ARGENTINA, ACCREDITED TO THE IRANIAN EMBASSY. THE ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE CASE AGAINST THOSE NAMED BY THE JUDGE.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO SEARCH FOR CLUES FROM THE RUBLE OF THE ASSOCIATION BUILDING. OUR GOVERNMENT, ALONG WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, HAS PROVIDED SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SPEED THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFICATION AND TO PRESS THE SEARCH FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT MAY LEAD TO THE PERPRETRATORS OF THIS ATROCIOUS ACT.

SINCE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOMBING, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AWARE OF CONCERN IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT BURIALS TAKE PLACE QUICKLY. ARGENTINE  
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OFFICIALS HAVE ACTED TO IDENTIFY THE VICTIMS AND TURN OVER REMAINS TO LOVED ONES AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION WAS SUCH, HOWEVER, THAT MANY OF THE VICTIMS COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED UNTIL DAYS OR WEEKS FOLLOWING THE BLAST. THE IDENTITIES OF SOME OF THOSE KILLED, A MONTH AFTER THE BOMBING, ARE STILL MYSTERIES. I CAN CONFIRM FOR YOU, HOWEVER, THAT AS OF THIS DATE ALL REMAINS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED AND RETURNED TO FAMILIES WHERE IDENTITIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US IF WE MAY BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE. SINCERELY, JAMES R. CHEEK,  
AMBASSADOR. END TEXT.

CHEEK

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